reported from high prevalence States such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

(c) A total of 4027 Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres have been established in the country for voluntarily knowing the HIV status of the affected person and these centres have been linked with ART centres for providing free treatment to eligible patients. There are at present 107 ART centres in the country providing free treatment to 56,916 paitents as on January, 2007.

Rehabilitation of Leprosy affected persons

1268. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in India there are 1.1 million persons affected by leprosy and the Central and State Governments have not offered any adequate financial package for their rehabilitation;

(b) whether recently the Chennai High Court issued notices to the Centre and State Governments and has directed authorities to submit a report stating wherther they have any scheme or plans for comprehensive rehabilitation and welfare of the leprosy affected persons;

(c) if so, whether both have already submitted their proposals;

(d) the directions received from the Chennai High Court on this issue; and

(e) the steps Government have proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) From the year 1983-84, a estimated 11409631 new leprosy cases were detected in India till December 2006. During this period an estimated 11974351 cases were cured with Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) drugs which are able to cure the disease in 6-12 months. During the last 5 years the number of leprosy cases have declined from 4,39,782 cases in 2001-02 to 95,150 cases in 2005-06 and the Prevalence Rate has declined from 4.2 in March, 2002 to

0.84/10,000 population in March 2006. The percentage of visible deformity cases among newly detected cases during this period was 1.8%.

Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) medical rehabilitation facilities for leprosy disable persons are being provided free of cost as mentioned below:-

(I) Organizing Prevention of Disability (POD) caps at block level, where leprosy disabled patients received one day train in on self care practices.

(ii) Conducting Re-Constructive Surgery (RCS) operations at various GOI recognized institutions managed by NGO's Central Government Leprosy Teaching & Research Centres, identified Medical Colleges.

(iii) Supplying Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear to needy patients through District Leprosy Societies, NGO's & International Federation of Anti Leprosy Association (ILEP) institutions.

(b) to (e) This Ministry has not received any notice/directions from Madras High Court to submit a report stating any scheme or plans for comprehensive rehabilitation and Welfare of the Leprosy affected persons.

Grape Juice for weight loss

1269. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRMATI SYEDAANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a study on obese patients conducted at Scripps Clinic in San Diego, US, has found that people using Grapefruit or its juice before each meal, lost an average of 3.6 pounds weight;

(b) if so, whether the R&D wing of his Ministry would come up with precise and easy modalities/practices so that obesity could be controlled keeping in view lowering of insulin level, or its interaction with some medicines; and